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## TRANSMITTAL FORM

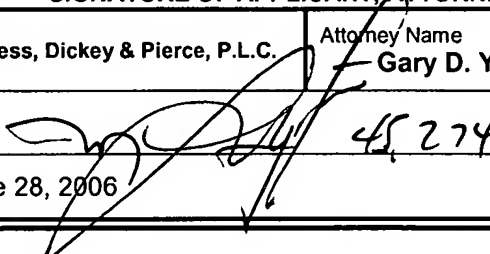
(to be used for all correspondence after initial filing)

Application Number	10/065,864
Filing Date	November 26, 2002
Inventor(s)	Yoshiyuki Karahashi et al.
Group Art Unit	2165
Examiner Name	Thuy N. Pardo
Attorney Docket Number	24NS125784

### ENCLOSURES (check all that apply)

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Fee Transmittal Form  <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Fee Attached  <input type="checkbox"/> Amendment <input type="checkbox"/> After Final <input type="checkbox"/> Affidavits/declaration(s)  <input type="checkbox"/> Extension of Time Request  <input type="checkbox"/> Express Abandonment Request  <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement <input type="checkbox"/> Certified Copy of Priority Document(s) <input type="checkbox"/> Response to Missing Parts/Incomplete Application <input type="checkbox"/> Response to Missing Parts under 37 CFR 1.52 or 1.53	<input type="checkbox"/> Assignment Papers (for an Application) <input type="checkbox"/> Letter to the Official Draftsperson and _____ Sheets of Formal Drawing(s) <input type="checkbox"/> Licensing-related Papers <input type="checkbox"/> Petition for Extension of time <input type="checkbox"/> Petition to Convert to a Provisional Application <input type="checkbox"/> Power of Attorney, Revocation Change of Correspondence Address <input type="checkbox"/> Terminal Disclaimer <input type="checkbox"/> Request for Refund <input type="checkbox"/> CD, Number of CD(s) _____	<input type="checkbox"/> After Allowance Communication to Group <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> LETTER SUBMITTING APPEAL BRIEF AND APPEAL BRIEF (w/clean version of pending claims) <input type="checkbox"/> Appeal Communication to Group (Notice of Appeal, Brief, Reply Brief) <input type="checkbox"/> Proprietary Information <input type="checkbox"/> Status Letter <input type="checkbox"/> Other Enclosure(s) (please identify below):		
<table><tr><td>Remarks</td><td></td></tr></table>			Remarks	
Remarks				

### SIGNATURE OF APPLICANT, ATTORNEY, OR AGENT

Firm or Individual name	Harness, Dickey & Pierce, P.L.C.	Attorney Name	Gary D. Yacura	Reg. No.	35,416
Signature					
Date	June 28, 2006				

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# FEE TRANSMITTAL for FY 2006

Effective 09/2006. Patent fees are subject to annual revision.

☒ Applicant claims small entity status. See 37 CFR 1.27

TOTAL AMOUNT OF PAYMENT (\$ ) 500

## Complete if Known

Application Number 10/065,864  
Filing Date November 26, 2002  
First Named Inventor Yoshiyuki KARAHASHI et al.  
Examiner Name Thuy N. PARDO  
Art Unit 2165  
Attorney Docket No. 24NS125784

### METHOD OF PAYMENT (check all that apply)

☒ Check ☐ Credit card ☐ Money Order ☐ Other ☐ None

☒ Deposit Account:

Deposit Account Number 08-0750

Deposit Account Name Harness, Dickey & Pierce, PLC

The Director is authorized to: (check all that apply)

☐ Charge fee(s) indicated below ☒ Credit any overpayments  
☒ Charge any additional fee(s) during the pendency of this application  
☐ Charge fee(s) indicated below, except for the filing fee to the above-identified deposit account.

### FEE CALCULATION

#### 1. BASIC FILING FEE

Large Entity		Small Entity		Fee Description	Fee Paid
Fee Code	Fee (\$)	Fee Code	Fee (\$)		
1011	300	2011	150	Utility filing fee	
1012	200	2012	100	Design filing fee	
1013	200	2013	100	Plant filing fee	
1014	300	2014	150	Reissue filing fee	
1005	200	2005	100	Provisional filing fee	

SUBTOTAL (1) (\$ ) 0

#### 2. EXTRA CLAIM FEES FOR UTILITY AND REISSUE

Total Claims	Extra Claims	Fee from below	Fee Paid
20 **	0		0
Independent Claims	-3 **	0	0
Multiple Dependent			0

Large Entity		Small Entity		Fee Description
Fee Code	Fee (\$)	Fee Code	Fee (\$)	
1202	50	2202	25	Claims in excess of 20
1201	200	2201	100	Independent claims in excess of 3
1203	360	2203	180	Multiple dependent claim, if not paid
1204	200	2204	100	** Reissue independent claims over original patent
1205	50	2205	25	** Reissue claims in excess of 20 and over original patent

SUBTOTAL (2) (\$ ) 0

\*\*or number previously paid, if greater; For Reissues, see above

### FEE CALCULATION (continued)

#### 3. ADDITIONAL FEES

Large Entity		Small Entity		Fee Description	Fee Paid
Fee Code	Fee (\$)	Fee Code	Fee (\$)		
1051	130	2051	65	Surcharge - late filing fee or oath	
1052	50	2052	25	Surcharge - late provisional filing fee or cover sheet.	
1053	130	1053	130	Non-English specification	
1812	2,520	1812	2,520	For filing a request for reexamination	
1804	920*	1804	920*	Requesting publication of SIR prior to Examiner action	
1805	1,840*	1805	1,840*	Requesting publication of SIR after Examiner action	
1251	120	2251	60	Extension for reply within first month	
1252	450	2252	225	Extension for reply within second month	
1253	1020	2253	510	Extension for reply within third month	
1254	1,590	2254	795	Extension for reply within fourth month	
1255	2,160	2255	1080	Extension for reply within fifth month	
1401	500	2401	250	Notice of Appeal	500
1402	500	2402	250	Filing a brief in support of an appeal	
1403	1000	2403	500	Request for oral hearing	
1452	500	2452	250	Petition to revive - unavoidable	
1453	1500	2453	750	Petition to revive - unintentional	
1462	400	1462	400	Petition fee under 37 CFR 1.17(f)	
1463	200	1463	200	Petition fee under 37 CFR 1.17(g)	
1464	130	1464	130	Petition fee under 37 CFR 1.17(h)	
1807	50	1807	50	Processing fee under 37 CFR 1.17 (q)	
1806	180	1806	180	Submission of Information Disclosure Stmt	
8021	40	8021	40	Recording each patent assignment per property (times number of properties)	
1809	790	2809	395	Filing a submission after final rejection (37 CFR § 1.129(a))	
1810	790	2810	395	For each additional invention to be examined (37 CFR § 1.129(b))	
1801	790	2801	395	Request for Continued Examination (RCE)	

Other fee (specify) \_\_\_\_\_

\*Reduced by Basic Filing Fee Paid SUBTOTAL (3) (\$ ) 500

#### 4. SEARCH/EXAMINATION FEES

1111	500	2111	250	Utility Search Fee	
1112	100	2112	50	Design Search Fee	
1113	300	2113	150	Plant Search Fee	
1114	500	2114	250	Reissue Search Fee	
1311	200	2311	100	Utility Examination Fee	
1312	130	2312	65	Design Examination Fee	
1313	160	2313	80	Plant Examination Fee	
1314	600	2314	300	Reissue Examination Fee	
				<b>SUBTOTAL (4)</b>	<b>(\$)</b>

SUBTOTAL (4) (\$ ) 0

### SUBMITTED BY

Name (Print/Type) Gary D. Yacura Registration No. 35,416 Telephone 703-668-8000  
Signature [Signature] Date June 28, 2006

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**PATENT**

Atty. Docket No.: 24NS125784  
HDP Ref.: 8564-000008/US

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

Application No.: 10/065,864  
Filing Date: November 26, 2002  
Applicant: Yoshiyuki Karahashi et al.  
Group Art Unit: 2165  
Examiner: Thuy Pardo  
Title: SYSTEM FOR AUTOMATING OPERATING PARAMETER  
LIST PROCESS  
Conf No: 3387

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**June 28, 2006**

**APPEAL BRIEF UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 41.37**

Dear Sir:

Appellants submit herewith their Brief on Appeal as required by 37 C.F.R. 41.37.

05/29/2006 SZENDIE1 00000042 10255864

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**BRIEF ON BEHALF OF APPELLANTS**

In support of the Notice of Appeal filed April 28, 2006, appealing the Examiner's final rejection mailed November 29, 2005 of each of pending claims 1-21 of the present application which appear in the attached claims Appendix, Appellants hereby provide the following remarks.

**(1) REAL PARTY IN INTEREST:**

The real party in interest is General Electric Company, as evidenced by the assignment recorded at reel 013267, frame 0096.

**(2) RELATED APPEALS AND INTERFERENCES:**

No related appeals or interferences are known.

**(3) STATUS OF THE CLAIMS:**

Pending claims 1-21 are the appealed claims. Claims 1-21 stand finally rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Cochran (U.S. Pat. No 5,995,979) in view of Waugh et al. ("Waugh") (U.S. Pat. No. 6,473,898), and further in view of Applicants' Admission of Prior Art ("AAPA").

**(4) STATUS OF ANY AMENDMENT FILED SUBSEQUENT TO FINAL REJECTION:**

No amendments have been filed subsequent to the November 29, 2005 Final Office Action.

**(5) SUMMARY OF CLAIMED SUBJECT MATTER:**

Example embodiments of the present invention relate generally to a system for automating an Operating Parameter List process (OPL). An OPL may be used to analyze and determine the specific operating parameters (e.g., amount of fuel and highest operating temperature) for operations and processes of a power plant (e.g., boiling water reactor plants), and in particular, each plant operation cycle. Each time a new component part or replacement part is to be installed, an analysis using an OPL is needed. For example, before installing a new fuel set for a reactor, an analysis of the specific operating parameters using an OPL is

performed to determine appropriate operating conditions ("OPL process"). This analysis may be performed, for example, in order to maximize the useful life of a fuel set<sup>1</sup>.

The OPL process may require several iterations, with changes to the parameters typically occurring during each iteration. The changes may be proposed and then accepted, for example between a vendor and a customer. Many communications, which may include emails, faxes and letters/proposals via regular mail, are typically required to determine an agreed upon OPL. Thereafter, an OPL is finalized (e.g., agreement reached between vendor and customer)<sup>2</sup>.

An exemplary system of the present invention may provide automating the OPL process, for example, via a web-based application tool which streamlines the process to handle the determination and finalization of an OPL. Using a web-based access, including, for example, a Customer Web Center (CWC), an interface for automating the OPL process may be provided. The system may allow for coordination and collaboration, for example, between a vendor and a utility customer, to arrive at a final set of parameter values for an OPL. By allowing all parties to review all the relevant OPL parameters on-line, the time needed to gather information will be reduced<sup>3</sup>.

In an example embodiment of the present invention, a system for automating an operation parameter list (OPL) process is provided which may include a database for storing parameter value data, and a web-based interface for accessing the stored parameter value data, which may be configured to automatically provide notification of modification to the parameter value data. The automatic notification may be provided as an email notification. Further, the parameter value data may include parameter values, for example, a boiling water reactor power plant cycle<sup>4</sup>.

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<sup>1</sup> Appellants' specification, page 1, paragraph [0002].

<sup>2</sup> Appellants' specification, page 1, paragraph [0003].

<sup>3</sup> Appellants' specification, page 2, paragraph [0005].

<sup>4</sup> Appellants' specification, page 2, paragraph [0006].

In another example embodiment of the present invention, a method of automating an operating parameter list process is provided which may include accessing a web-based interface configured to allow a user to view and modify parameter value data, inputting parameter values using the web-based interface, and receiving automatic notification of modification to the parameter values. The method may further include modifying the inputted parameter values, with the automatic notification (e.g., email notification) provided in response to the modification. The method may also include confirming the inputted parameter values<sup>5</sup>.

In yet another example embodiment of the present invention, a method of automating an operating parameter list process is provided which may include generating an operating parameter list, storing the operating parameter list and associated parameter values in a database, allowing modification of the operating parameter list, updating the associated parameter values in the database based upon the modification to the operating parameter list, and providing notification of the modification to the operating parameter list. Further, the step of storing may include storing a modified operating parameter list in a first database and storing a finalized operating parameter list in a second database<sup>6</sup>.

**(6) GROUND OF REJECTION TO BE REVIEWED ON APPEAL:**

Claims 1-21 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Cochran, U.S. Pat. No. 5,995,979 in view of Waugh et al. ("Waugh"), U.S. Pat. No. 6,473,898, and further in view of Applicants' admission of prior art ("AAPA").

**(7) ARGUMENT:**

**Claims 1-21 are not rendered obvious over Cochran, Waugh and AAPA**

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<sup>5</sup> Appellants' specification, page 2, paragraph [0007].

<sup>6</sup> Appellants' specification, page 2, paragraph [0008].

Appellants respectfully submit that Cochran, Waugh and APA, individually or in any combination, fail to disclose or suggest a system for automating an operation parameter list process, comprising, *at least*:

a database for storing parameter value data; and

a web-based interface for accessing the stored parameter value data and configured to automatically provide notification of modification to the stored parameter value data, wherein an analysis of an operating parameter is performed using the operation parameter list to determine appropriate operating conditions of the system

as recited in claim 1.

Cochran discloses a method for managing the presentation of search terms on a computer terminal or other display device so that a database can be searched. A search of the database is conducted based upon selected term from at least one of multiple listings. A subset of records identified by the search is then used to form new listings of search terms that are then displayed on the display device. The user may examine a new subset of search terms and either view one or all of the records located, further limit the search or reset all or part of the search.<sup>7</sup> Further, Cochran teaches that the original search terms are fixed and cannot be modified.<sup>8</sup>

In regard to Waugh, the Examiner allegedly asserts that Waugh teaches providing notification of modification to the parameter valued data, directing Appellants to Figure 2e, particularly, the features of the “add” or “remove” SKU info<sup>9</sup>. However, the modification to the search terms of Waugh is performed by a data entry RA, this is done by exercising an option of entering additional warranty attributes by clicking the SKU info “add”. This is not an automatic

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<sup>7</sup> See Cochran, col. 8, line 54 -col. 9, line 23.

<sup>8</sup> See Cochran, col. 9, lines 35 and 36.

<sup>9</sup> See November 29, 2005 Final Office Action, page 3, first full paragraph.



operation. Thus, Waugh fails to disclose or suggest automatically providing the notification of modification to the parameter valued data.

As fully discussed in the instant disclosure,<sup>10</sup> the APA involves a manual exchange of files (e.g., files having proposed OPL values), which results in delays and errors. In other words, the manual exchange of files provides inconsistencies and may lead to disagreements between vendors and customers through conventional channels. Further, the extra time that may be required to complete the process, adds cost to the overall OPL process.

Accordingly, Appellants submit that the references of Cochran, Waugh and APA are not combinable, as the Examiner has not provided any evidence of a suggestion or a motivation for combining the references.

Moreover, the Examiner has failed to provide any evidence of motivation as to why the system of Waugh and APA would be used in the computer database of Cochran. The Examiner alleges that:

[i]t would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the Data Processing art at the time of the invention to add this feature of Waugh to the system of Cochran as an essential means that enables the users [to] see choices in multiple lists before deciding which search term from which list best meets their interest.<sup>11</sup>

The mere possibility that Waugh can be modified as suggested by the Examiner is not sufficient, by itself, to establish a *prima facie* case for obviousness. Appellants direct the Examiner's attention to two cases decided by the Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit (CAFC), In re Dembiczak<sup>12</sup>, and In re Kotzab<sup>13</sup>. Both of these cases set forth very rigorous requirements for establishing a *prima facie* case of obviousness under 35 U.S.C. §103(a). To establish obviousness based on a combination of elements disclosed in the prior art, there must

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<sup>10</sup> Appellants' specification, page 1, paragraph [0004].

<sup>11</sup> See November 29, 2005 Final Office Action, page 3, second full paragraph.

<sup>12</sup> 175 F.3d 994, 999, 50 USPQ2d 1614, 1617 (Fed.Cir. 1999).

<sup>13</sup> 217 F.3d 1365, 1371, 55 USPQ2d 1313, 1317 (Fed.Cir. 2000).

be some motivation, suggestion, or teaching of the desirability of making the specific combination that was made by the Applicant. The motivation suggestion or teaching may come explicitly from one of the following:

- (a) the statements in the prior art (patents themselves)
- (b) the knowledge of one of ordinary skill art, or in some cases,
- (c) the nature of the problem to be solved.

See In re Dembiczak<sup>14</sup>.

Accordingly, the Examiner has not adequately supported the selection and modification of Waugh and the APA to render obvious that which Appellants have described. The Examiner's conclusory statement that the APA, "enables the users [to] see choices in multiple lists before deciding which search term from which list best meets their interest" does not adequately address the issue of motivation to combine references. This factual question of motivation is material to patentability, and can not be resolved on a subjective belief with unknown authority. It is improper, in determining whether a person of ordinary skill would have been led to this modification, simply to "[use] that which the inventor taught against its teacher." W.L. Gore v. Garlock, Inc<sup>15</sup>. The Examiner must explain the reasoning behind his findings of motivation. Simply stating that the motivation for modifying Cochran "to see choices in multiple lists before deciding which search term from which list best meets their interest " is an insufficient explanation for the alleged modification.

Further, combining the teachings of Waugh and APA with the teachings of Cochran would substantially destroy the process in Cochran, as it would substantially change the principle of operation in Cochran. For example, Cochran discloses that the original search terms are fixed and cannot be modified.<sup>16</sup> Accordingly, if the alleged modification and/or combination of the prior art (Waugh with APA) would change the principle of operation of the

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<sup>14</sup> 50 USPQ at 1614 (Fed.Cir. 1999).

<sup>15</sup> 721 F.2d 1540, 1553, 220 USPQ 303, 312-13 (Fed. Cir. 1983).

<sup>16</sup> See Cochran, col. 9, lines 35 and 36.

prior art invention (Cochran), then the teachings and the references are not sufficient to render the claims *prima facie* obvious.<sup>17</sup> Absence of such evidence, there cannot be any motivation to combine the references of Cochran, Waugh and APA in the manner suggested by the Examiner.

Further, the Examiner is using impermissible hindsight reconstruction to reject the features. The Examiner has used the present application as a blueprint, selected a prior art computer database of Cochran as the main structural system, and then searched other prior art for the missing features without identifying or discussing any specific evidence of motivation to combine, other than providing conclusionary statements regarding the knowledge in the art, motivation and obviousness. The Federal Circuit that the PTO and the courts “cannot use hindsight reconstruction to pick and choose among isolated disclosures in the prior art to deprecate the claimed invention”, In re Fine<sup>18</sup>, and that the best defense against hindsight-based obviousness analysis is the rigorous application of the requirement for a showing of a teaching or a motivation to combine the prior art references. Thus, Appellants submit that the Examiner has failed to provide proper evidence of motivation for combining the teachings of Cochran, Waugh and APA.

Moreover, the Examiner is reminded that deferential judicial review under the Administrative Procedure Act does not relieve the agency (in this case the USPTO) of its obligation to develop an evidentiary basis for its findings. To the contrary, the Administrative Procedure Act reinforces this obligation. See, e.g., Motor Vehicle Manufacturers Ass’n v. State Farm Mutual Automobile Ins. Co.<sup>19</sup> (“the agency must examine the relevant data and articulate a satisfactory explanation for its action including a ‘rational connection between the facts found

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<sup>17</sup> In re Ratti, 272 F.2d 810, 123 USPQ 349 (CCPA 1959).

<sup>18</sup> 837 F.2d 1071, 5 USPQ 2D 1780 (Fed. Cir. 1988).

<sup>19</sup> 463 U.S. 29, 43 (1983).

and the choice made."') (quoting Burlington Truck Lines v. United States, 371 U.S. 156, 168 (1962)). In this respect, since the Examiner has not provided the requisite suggestion in the references to make his alleged combination with regard to any of the claims, the Examiner rejects the precedent in In re Sung Lee<sup>20</sup>.

In its decision on Lee's patent application, the Board rejected the need for "any specific hint or suggestion in a particular reference" to support the combination of the Nortrup and Thunderchopper references. Omission of a relevant factor required by precedent is both legal error and arbitrary agency action. See Motor Vehicle Manufacturers, 463 U.S. at 43 ("an agency rule would be arbitrary and capricious if the agency...entirely failed to consider an important aspect of the problem"); Mullins v. Department of Energy, 50 F.3d 990, 992 (Fed. Cir. 1995) ("It is well established that agencies have a duty to provide reviewing courts with a sufficient explanation for their decisions so that those decisions may be judged against the relevant statutory standards, and that failure to provide such an explanation is grounds for striking down the action."). As discussed in National Labor Relations Bd. v. Ashkenazy Property Mgt. Corp., 817 F.2d 74, 75 (9th Cir. 1987), an agency is "not free to refuse to follow circuit precedent." Appellants submit that the Examiner has failed to provide any specific hint or suggestion in Cochran, Waugh and/or APA to support the alleged combination.

Accordingly, for at least these reasons, claim 1 and those claims dependent thereon are allowable over the applied art<sup>21</sup>, and thus, patentable for the reasons stated above.

Withdrawal and allowance of the application are respectfully requested.

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<sup>20</sup> 277 F.3d 1338, 61 USPQ2d 1430 (Fed. Cir. 2002).

<sup>21</sup> Claims 2-9 are also allowable for any of the above reasons and by virtue of their dependency from claim 1.

Claims 10 and 17 are also allowable for the similar reasons discussed above with respect to claim 1. Claims 11-16 and 18-21 are allowable by virtue of their dependency on either claims 10 and 17, and thus are, patentable for the reasons stated above.

Withdrawal and allowance of the claims is respectfully requested.

**(8) EVIDENCE OF RELATED APPEALS AND INTERFERENCES APPENDICES**

As there are no related appeals and interferences, copies of decisions rendered by a court or the Board for such proceedings do not exist and have not been supplied in an Appendix pursuant to 41.37(c)(1)(x).

As no evidence was submitted and relied upon in this Appeal, an Appendix pursuant to 41.37(c)(1)(ix) has not been supplied.

**(9) CONCLUSION**

For all the reasons set forth above, the present invention as recited in Appellants' pending claims 1-21 are not rendered obvious to one skilled in the art as asserted by the Examiner. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that the claimed invention should properly be patentable over the cited art. It is therefore respectfully requested that this Appeal be granted by the panel and that the Examiner be reversed.

In the event that any matters remain at issue in the application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at (703) 668-8000 in the Northern Virginia area, for the purpose of a telephonic interview.

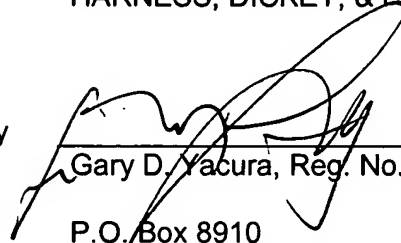
If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 08-0750 for any

additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

HARNESS, DICKEY, & PIERCE, P.L.C.

By

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Gary D. Yacura", is written over a horizontal line. To the right of the signature, the number "45274" is handwritten.

Gary D. Yacura, Reg. No. 35,416

P.O. Box 8910  
Reston, Virginia 20195  
(703) 668-8000

GDY/MJL/DJC

Attached: (10) Appendix: Pending claims of record

**(10) CLAIMS APPENDIX:**

1. A system for automating an operation parameter list process, comprising:  
a database for storing parameter value data; and  
a web-based interface for accessing the stored parameter value data and configured to automatically provide notification of modification to the stored parameter value data, wherein an analysis of an operating parameter is performed using the operation parameter list to determine appropriate operating conditions of the system.
2. The system according to claim 1 wherein the database is configured to store modified parameter value data.
3. The system according to claim 2 further comprising a second database for storing finalized parameter value data.
4. The system according to claim 1 further comprising a conversion component for converting the parameter value data between a format for storing in the database and a format for access using the web-based interface.
5. The system according to claim 1 wherein the parameter value data comprises parameter values for a boiling water reactor power plant cycle.
6. The system according to claim 1 wherein the automatic notification comprises an email notification.

7. The system according to claim 1 wherein the database is configured to automatically store modifications to the parameter value data.

8. The system according to claim 1 wherein the web-based interface is configured to provide different levels of user access to the parameter value data.

9. The system according to claim 1 wherein the web-based interface is configured to generate a parameter list with parameter values therein stored in the database.

10. A method of automating an operating parameter list process, comprising:  
accessing a web-based interface configured to allow a user to view and modify parameter value data;  
inputting parameter values using the web-based interface;  
receiving automatic notification of modification to the stored parameter values; and  
performing an analysis of an operating parameter using the operation parameter list to determine appropriate operating conditions.

11. The method according to claim 10 further comprising modifying the inputted parameter values, and wherein the automatic notification is provided in response to the modification.

12. The method according to claim 11 wherein the automatic notification comprises email notification.



13. The method according to claim 10 wherein the parameter values comprise parameter values for a boiling water reactor power plant cycle.

14. The method according to claim 10 wherein the parameter values are configured as a parameter list displayed as part of a spreadsheet for access by a user.

15. The method according to claim 10 wherein the web-based interface is configured to provide different levels of access to the parameter value data based upon access rights for a user.

16. The method according to claim 10 further comprising confirming the inputted parameter values.

17. A method of automating an operating parameter list process, comprising:  
generating an operating parameter list;  
storing the operating parameter list and associated parameter values in a database;  
allowing modification of the stored operating parameter list;  
updating the associated parameter values in the database based upon the modification to the stored operating parameter list; and  
performing an analysis of an operating parameter using the operation parameter list to determine appropriate operating conditions;  
providing notification of the modification to the operating parameter list.

18. The method according to claim 17 wherein the operating parameter list comprises operating parameter values for a boiling water reactor power plant cycle.

19. The method according to claim 17 where the step of storing comprises storing a modified operating parameter list in a first database and storing a finalized operating parameter list in a second database.

20. The method according to claim 17 wherein the notification comprises email notification.

21. The method according to claim 17 further comprising limiting access to the operating parameter list based upon user access rights.